(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said system is proposed to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) The Law Commission in its 154th Report has made recommendations pertaining to plea bargaining in the context of huge backlog of criminal cases pending in lower courts. The recommendations made by the Law Commission are under examination.

Constitution Review Committee

†2090. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA:
SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a Committee to review the constitution of India; if so, the composition and prescise terms of reference of the Committee, indicating the political, social, legal and economic representation in the Constitution of the Committee;

(b) by when it is expected to submit its report and recommendations; and

(c) what will the *modus operandi* of this Committee?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) The Government have set up a "National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution" consisting of a Chairperson and 10 Members. The Commission shall examine, in the light of the experience of the past 50 years, as to how best the Constitution can respond to the changing needs of efficient, smooth and effective system of governance and socio-economic development of modern India within the framework of parliamentary democracy and to recommened changes, if any, that are required in the provision of the Constitution without interfering with its basic structure or features. Chairperson of the Commission was selected on the basis of his expertise on constitutional issues and the working of the democratic institutions of the nation. Members of the Commission were selected on the basis of their proven expertise and knowledge in the field of constitutional law, economics, politics, law, sociology, political science and other relevant subjects.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The Commission will submit its report within one year.

(c) The Commission shall decide its own procedure and hear and entertain all persons, representations and communications which in the opinion of the Commission shall facilitate its work and final recommendation.

Cases pending in High Courts of Punjab

2091. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in the High court of Punjab and its various branches by the end of 1999; and

(b) the number of cases pending for more than 5 years and steps taken for early disposal of pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) The number of cases pending in the High Court of Punjab as on 31.12.1999 is 1,84,964.

(b) The number of cases pending for more than 5 years is 82,496.

Various steps have been taken by the High Court of Punjab & Haryana, Viz., grouping of cases involving common question of law through a Grouping Officer appointed in this behalf. Necessary classification of benches is also being resorted to in the High Court of Punjab & Haryana. At the time of admission of cases, notice is taken of short matters and they are disposed of immediately after the service of notice of motion on the respondents. For speedy justice, a permanent Lok Adalat has been set up in the High Court of Punjab & Haryana wherein cases are disposed of amicably in between the parties.

Removal of Ban in IRCC on taking new Works

2092. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ban imposed on Indian Road Construction Corporation Ltd. during 1986 for taking up new works is yet to be lifted resulting in the blockage of its generating resources and consequential losses running into crores of rupees;